

April 23, 2004

**Project 184 Weekly Update**  
**Website: [www.project184.org](http://www.project184.org)**

Our New Toll Free Project 184 information number is now working. **The new number is 1-(866)-776-5184 or 1-(866)-project184.**

**Summary of Environmental Planning and Compliance Activities**  
**For Project 184**  
***Week Ending April 23, 2004***

**Mill to Bull Tunnel/Spillway 20**

District and EN2 Resources representatives met with USFS representatives on April 21 to discuss the District environmental review and agency consultation/permitting process, project schedule, and USFS staff questions regarding Spillway 20 operations and the limited capacity of the Bull Creek Tract road culvert. Per the USFS staff request, the District is now undertaking additional technical evaluations (hydrologic, stream channel, and nearby slide stability) relative to Spillway 20 operations. A construction bid specifications review meeting was also held with District, EN2 Resources, and Owen Engineering representatives on April 20.

**Lake Aloha Dam Maintenance and Telemetry Station Installation Project**

On April 19, the District Board adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and approved the Project in accordance with CEQA requirements. District and EN2 Resources representatives prepared and filed the necessary notices with the State Clearinghouse and County Clerk, and also began preparing applications and other requests for permitting/resource agency approvals in accordance with identified permit, waiver, and consistency review requirements.

**Ecological Resource Committee (ERC)**

District staff transmitted a proposed agenda to members of the ERC confirming and identifying the scope of discussion topics for the April 27 meeting at the District's Board meeting room.

**Relicensing Activities**

The District and Forest Service participated in a March 31 meeting to discuss District/USFS schedules and review processes for CIP engineering and construction actions for 2004 and 2005. District management, Project Engineers and consultants, and Forest Service management and representatives from the Placerville, Pacific, and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit districts participated in the meeting, which included a project-by-project review and discussion of contacts and procedures for planning and Forest Service review of the projects.

**Camp 2 Short-Cut Access Road**

The USFS indicated that it has decided not to permit the District to rehabilitate and use the Camp 2 Short-Cut Road on a seasonal basis as the District had requested, and that the road will be permanently closed. The District will continue planning and consulting with the USFS on required actions for stabilizing a surface slide and addressing vandalism of a National Register of Historic Places-eligible rock wall on the primary Camp 2 access road.

#### **Project 184 Relicensing Support**

The District and USFS have rescheduled a coordination meeting from March 15 to March 31 to discuss Relicensing Settlement Agreement, District Capital Improvement Program, and Mill to Bull Tunnel Project completion activities and priorities.

#### **SPI Plum Creek Staging Area SWPPP Maintenance**

District Camp 5 staff replaced and improving SWPPP BMPs at the Plum Creek staging area based on poor performance of the existing SWPPP BMPs during this past winter. The improvements to the BMPs include installing larger diameter straw wattles, reorienting the layout of the wattles, and re-grading and placement of 6-12 inch rock in the main drainage area to reduce erosion and better contain sediment.

#### **Mill Creek Diversion Modification Project (Bore Hole)**

District staff met on March 10 to discuss the potential methods, feasibility and environmental considerations of drilling the bore hole from Mill Creek downward to the Mill to Bull Tunnel, versus the currently proposed drilling of the bore hole from the Mill to Bull Tunnel upward to Mill Creek. Reconsideration of the construction methods is partly in response to comments from R. Kanz of the SWRCB on the District's CEQA Initial Study that the District should reconsider the Mill Creek downward drilling method. District is evaluating its options.

#### **2004 Project 184 Planned CIP Projects:**

- Hazel Creek Tunnel
- Lake Aloha Telemetry/Dam Repairs
- Spillway 20
- Camp 2 Bridge and Slide
- Silver Lake Spillway Automation
- Echo Lake Outlet Valve Automation/Spillway Valve
- Slide Repairs Flume 6&7,
- Special Use Permit/ Road Work
- New Canal SCADA Alarms
- Install Weather Station
- Replace Flume 52
- Rebuild Spillway Chutes
- Engineering For Flumes 31, 49-50 Concrete Flume
- Engineering Echo Conduit and Tunnel Repairs
- Replacement of Deer Fencing Beat one
- Fence Camp 5

### **Ecological Resources Committee meeting planned for April 27th, 2004 Meeting**

The next ERC meeting is scheduled for April 27, at 0900. Final meeting minutes have been circulated to all parties.

### **\*Akin Powerhouse Water Quality Monitoring**

The final water quality monitoring events were performed on December 17 and 19 upstream and downstream of the Akin Powerhouse. The monitoring began in mid-October and was performed an average of once per week to assess potential changes in water quality during a wide range of start-up and testing procedures for the powerhouse. Results indicate that Akin Powerhouse operations had negligible effects on South Fork American River water quality conditions during the monitoring periods. SWPPP measures are in place and inspections are being performed as required.

### **\*Powerhouse Update:**

EID is operating the powerhouse between 18 to 20mw. Currently we are operating both Units 24 hours a day, while we perform further testing. Powerhouse will be down between 4/27/04 to 4/28/04 by midnight to allow PG&E to service transmission lines.

### **\*Canal**

The flows in the canal are being regulated by A-12 requirements for minimum fish flows. Fish life this month per the settlement agreement is 110cfs at A-12, beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Current flows in canal are ranging between 135-145 cfs. The canal is being patrolled on a daily basis and there have been no major problems found which would prevent the canal to be filled to its capacity. SCADA is being manned 24 hours a day to insure the reliable and safe operation of the canal. Further automation of the Diversion Structure is planned to control A-12 (Fish Release's) and A-11 (canal flows).

EID is continually working on its automation to control the Diversion Structure at the intake to regulate the float controller to allow EID to satisfy the A-12 minimum flow requirements and place balance of water in the canal at A-11. This will allow EID to operate with much tighter flows, maximizing generation production. Mead & Hunt continues to provide engineering support on the remaining tasks to be completed at intake.

It was determined by Carlton Engineering that additional vertical drilling would need to be done on the Canal Bench to measure water levels with in the berm on slide 6 & 7. This will be accomplished using a small hand held unit. The additional drilling was completed February 10 along with SWPPP.

EID is in the preliminary stages of beginning work on the Hazel Creek Tunnel. Access road and site clearing is scheduled to begin February 9, 2004, with burning of brush scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2004. This project is expected to be in progress between February 9 though October 31, 2004, at which time EID expects to be completed.

**EID has received all its project signs and will be installing these new EID signs throughout our Project 184. The lakes will receive new signage this spring when the snow melts. Ice warning signs have been posted at Lakes to warn fisherman of changing lake levels.**

**Tributary flows:**

Esmeralda and Ogilby are not being utilized in canal, as of this report; however if bypass flows are above minimums EID will utilize the water as needed.

**Echo Lake**

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized.

**Caples Lake**

The flashboards have been removed from the spillway and the facilities have been winterized. ICE warning sign have been posted at lakes, warning fisherman of changing lake levels. EID plans to draw Caples Lake down as required to prevent early spill. Planned releases for Caples creek this week are 18cfs due to increased runoff.

**Silver Lake**

The Radial Gates were close on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> and the Lake is starting to fill. Beginning installation of conduit for automatic gate operation.

**Lake Aloha**

Lake Aloha is shut down for the winter, which is the normal operating pattern. A visit to the Lake was made on Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup> at that time the Lake elevation was. Staff 13.7ft. =1195 af.

A trip was made to Pyramid Creek (A-40) on January 29, Staff Reading 1.72=12.9cfs. A trip was made to Echo Lake the week of January 19<sup>th</sup> but readings could not be taken due to the amount of snow on the staff. Everything appears to be normal.

**DWR Bulletin 120 states that it's a Dry Year not Below Normal.**

**Listed below are the Projects readings for April 26, 2004, taken from SCADA:**

	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Ac. Ft.</b>	<b>Draft</b>
Echo Lake	0	0	0
Echo Conduit	0	0	0
Echo Creek	1.80		22.5 cfs
Caples Lake	44.04	12,271	13.1 cfs
Silver Lake	18.96	6,816	16.4 cfs
Pyramid Creek	2.74		60.28 cfs

There is 145.6 cfs @ A-11cfs being released into the canal at Intake and 213.6 cfs flowing in the South Fork of the American River at Intake.

A-17 Forebay Storage  $3797.08 = 295$  AF

A-18 EID Irrigation Usage is  $.78 = 14.17$  cfs

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